7-21

T. Kaczynski
Stemple Pass Road
Lincoln, Montana 59639

Dave Kaczynski
Terlingua Route, Box 220
Alpine, Texas 79830

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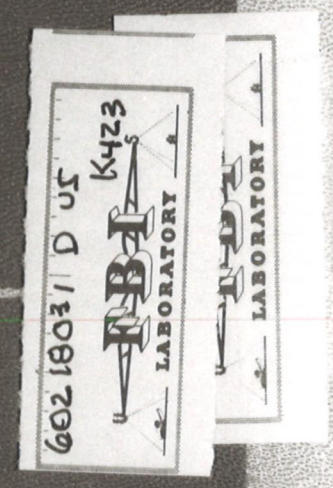

Dear Dave:

Well, I can't come to see you after all. I am extremely sorry to inconvenience you with all these changes of plans. All I can say is that these changes of mind are not frivolous and arbitrary — they are due to changes of circumstance. There is more to this than you realize. The proximate cause of this latest change of plans is that those jagoffs changed their minds about when they are going to do that logging. We had a lot of snow recently and it seems they're too sissy to work in the snow. So they're going to log when the snow goes down, whenever that may be. I had timed my trip to coincide with the logging. Now, I have some things that I have to get done. I don't know how much noise they will be making for how long, but if, as I fear, it's going to be several weeks of roaring and grinding machinery, it will be unendurable — especially in view of what that noise signifies — and I will have to go away somewhere. So that means I will have to get as much as possible done now, while I have the chance. Once again, I'm extremely sorry about all this. I hope this letter gets to you in time so that you don't make an unnecessary trip to Alpine — but I'm afraid it will probably arrive too late. All I can do is offer you my humble apology, for whatever that's worth.

Since you apparently have advanced considerably with Spanish, I was going to bring you a book in that language. Since I can't come, I am mailing you the book. Hope it gets there before you go back to Lombard. If not, you might file a card at the post office to have your mail forwarded.

P.S. I decided to mail the book to Lombard, instead. I assume you'll be going back there soon.

— Ted

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Hermano, me agrado de saber que hayas aprendido tanto español, como me escribiste en tu última carta. ¿Por qué no me escribes nada en español para entrenarte? Pues, te regalo un libro, El Comendador Mendoza, del distinguído escritor español Juan Valera. Lamento que sea una versión abreviada, para los estudiantes. Tiene esto, en cambio, unas ventajas: hay un vocabulario al final del libro, y notas al pie de las páginas.

this is the note I was going to put in the book when I gave it to you.

P.S. Actually I almost decided to come in spite of the objection mentioned, but when I went and found out the fares and ~~schedules~~ schedules it proved actually impossible to get there even in time for the alternate date. When I checked a few months ago, the round trip fare was about $200.00 and the trip would have taken, if I remember right, a little more than 48 hours. ~~I checked on~~ No, wait, maybe I could have just made it by the alternate date, but it wouldn't be worth it. For one thing, the fare would have been $273.00 round trip, a much bigger increase than I expected. For another, I would have had to spend close to four straight days on the bus. I read in the paper ~~that~~ some while back that Greyhound was rearranging its service to cater more to short haul rather than long haul travel, and I guess this must have led to schedule changes that made the trip so much longer. Really very sorry. —Ted

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